

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph on Page 10, lines 29-31, and replace as follows:

-- Figure 10 illustrates the reaction between an epoxide ring and a nucleophilic reagent, where R is an organic residue and R¹ is a nucleophilic group--.

Please delete the paragraph on Page 10, lines 33-34, and replace as follows:

-- Figure 11 illustrates the reaction of poly (glycidylmethacrylate) with trifluoroacetic acid--.

Please delete the paragraph on Page 11, lines 1-2, and replace as follows:

-- Figure 12 illustrates the reaction of poly (glycidylmethacrylate) with diethylamine--.

Please delete the paragraph on Page 14, lines 28-33, and replace as follows:

-- Diethylamine was used to assess the reactivity of surface epoxide groups towards amines. This secondary amine was chosen because it is capable of reacting only once with an epoxide centre, Figure 11; therefore making it much easier to calculate the number of aminated epoxides from the corresponding N(1s) peak area: --.

Please delete the paragraph on Page 15, lines 4-11, and replace as follows:

-- 4.4% nitrogen was detected by XPS for the pulsed plasma polymer layer, which corresponds to 59% of the surface epoxide groups having undergone reaction as depicted in Figure 11. The two peaks seen in the N(1s) spectra can be assigned to neutral (399.8 eV) and positively charged nitrogen (402.1 eV), Figure 4, where the latter is probably due to protonation by atmospheric moisture, rather than the reaction of the amine centre with an adjacent epoxide group--.